



WAVES OF CHANGE

PART TWO

SONIC

Archie
COMICS

SEGA

THE HEDGEHOG

ISSUE 261

Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures – A world unique & beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Sonic and his friends work to save the world from the forces of evil!

SONIC™

THE HEDGEHOG

PREVIOUSLY...

DEPTHS OF DANGER!

The Shattered World Crisis is upon us! The planet's crust has broken apart and now floats in chunks via a strange and terrible force. It's up to Sonic and the Freedom Fighters to find the seven Chaos Emeralds and Gaia Temples – they are the keys to fixing the world!



The search has brought Sonic, Amy and Rotor to an undersea realm where they meet an oceanic society for the first time! They were welcomed by the priestess Coral, who said a spirit foretold their arrival.



But it doesn't appear everyone there is as welcoming. Trouble has arrived and Sonic may already be **all washed up...**



WHO'S WHO



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
FASTEST THING ALIVE



AMY ROSE
PIKO HAMMER WIELDER
& ROTOR
THE WALRUS
WARRIOR MECHANIC



CORAL THE BETTA
HIDDEN SHRINE PRIESTESS



PEARLY THE RAY
PRIESTESS-IN-TRAINING
& RAZOR THE SHARK
TEMPLE DEFENDER

EUSEBES TEMPLE,
SOUTH OCEAN...

HEY
THERE, FELLAS. DO
WE HAVE A **PROBLEM**
HERE?

PEARLY
PRIESTESS-IN-
TRAINING

RAZOR
TEMPLE
DEFENDER

ROTOR
BURLY
BUILDER

AMY
HAMMERER

CRUSHER
THINKS HE'S
BIG STUFF

SONIC
FASTEST THING
ALIVE (...ON
LAND)

WAVES OF CHANGE

Part Two:

CURRENT EVENTS

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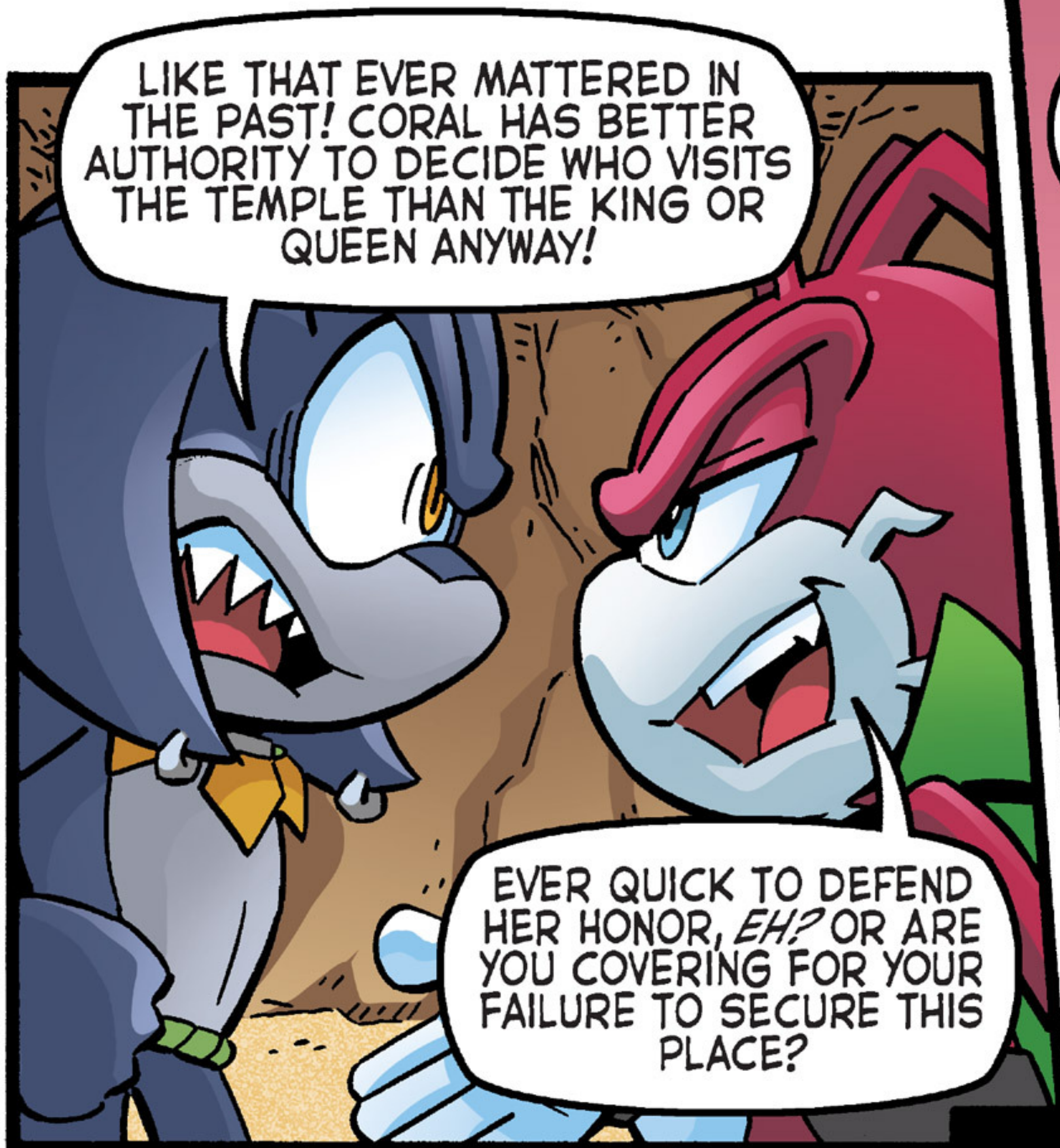
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THAT DEPENDS. IT WOULD
SEEM THE PRIESTESS HAS
ALLOWED OUTSIDERS ONTO
HOLY GROUND **WITHOUT**
ROYAL PERMISSION.

CPT. STRIKER
THE MANTIS
SHRIMP
BEWARE THE
CLAW!

CITY GUARD
MEROPIS'S
FINEST



LIKE THAT EVER MATTERED IN THE PAST! CORAL HAS BETTER AUTHORITY TO DECIDE WHO VISITS THE TEMPLE THAN THE KING OR QUEEN ANYWAY!

EVER QUICK TO DEFEND HER HONOR, *EH*? OR ARE YOU COVERING FOR YOUR FAILURE TO SECURE THIS PLACE?



WHAT?! I DIDN'T FAIL--!

LET IT GO, MAN. HE'S JUST TRYING TO GET YOU IN TROUBLE.

THIS IS WHY DEFENSE SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE PROFESSIONALS, NOT BOYS PLAYING AT BEING HEROES.



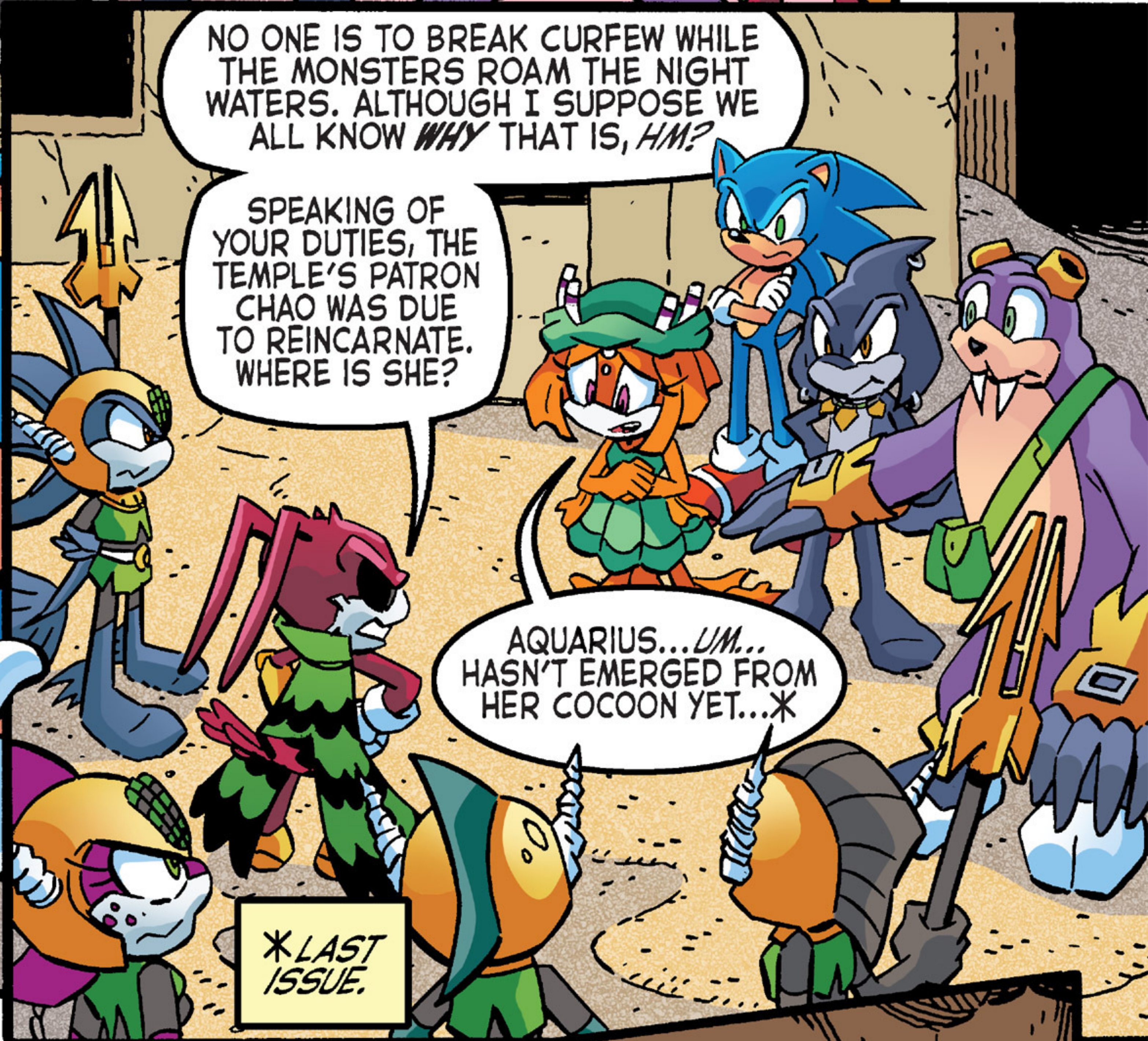
G-GOOD MORNING, CAPTAIN.

IS MR. PERSONALITY A REGULAR AROUND HERE?

CORAL
TEMPLE
PRIESTESS

THE MAGIC RINGS HERE POWER THE CITY, SO THEY VISIT EVERY MORNING.

I'M SORRY, CAPTAIN. I--IT WAS TOO LATE LAST NIGHT...

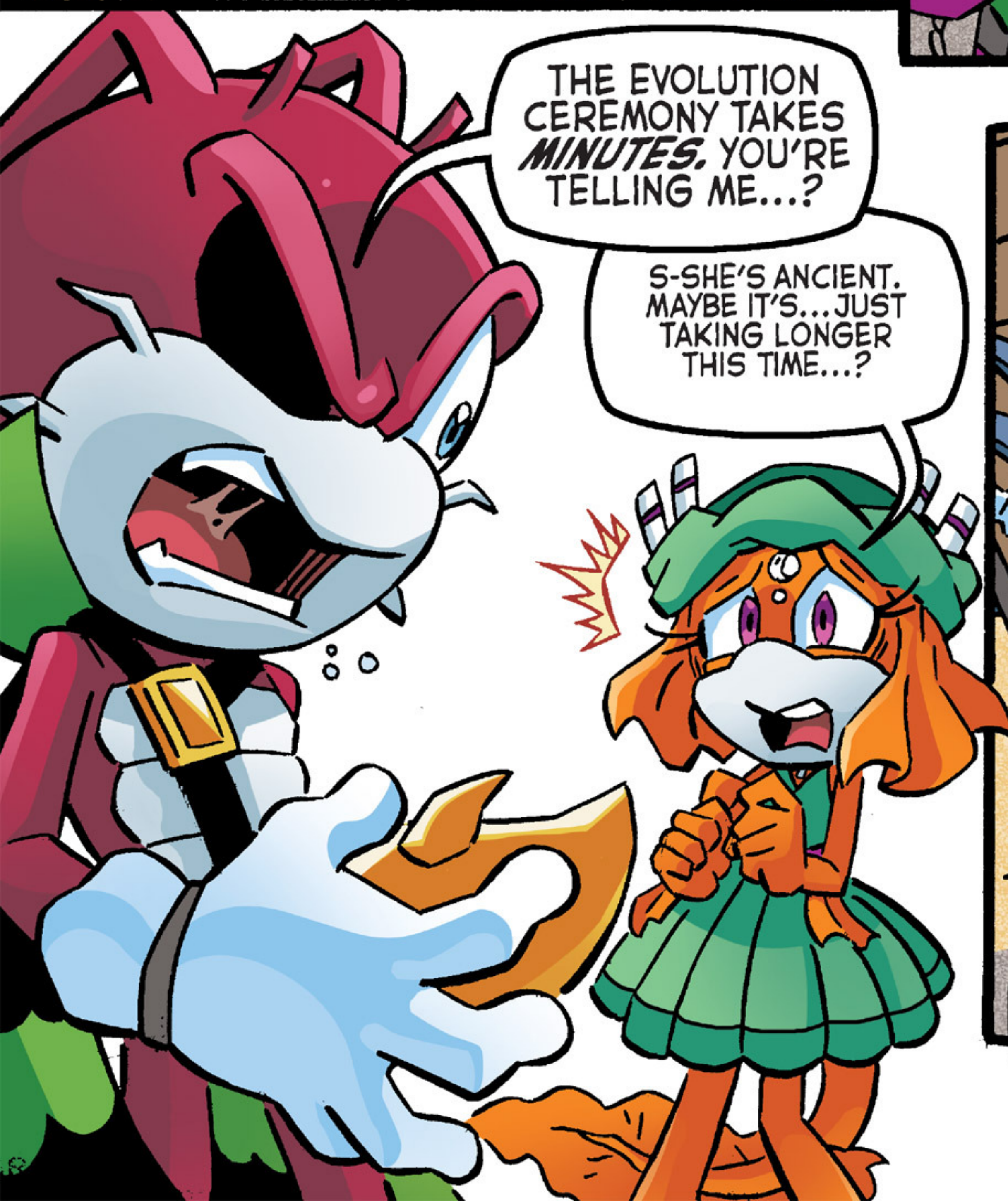


NO ONE IS TO BREAK CURFEW WHILE THE MONSTERS ROAM THE NIGHT WATERS. ALTHOUGH I SUPPOSE WE ALL KNOW *WHY* THAT IS, *HM*?

SPEAKING OF YOUR DUTIES, THE TEMPLE'S PATRON CHAO WAS DUE TO REINCARNATE. WHERE IS SHE?

AQUARIUS... *U/M*... HASN'T EMERGED FROM HER COCOON YET...*

*LAST
ISSUE.



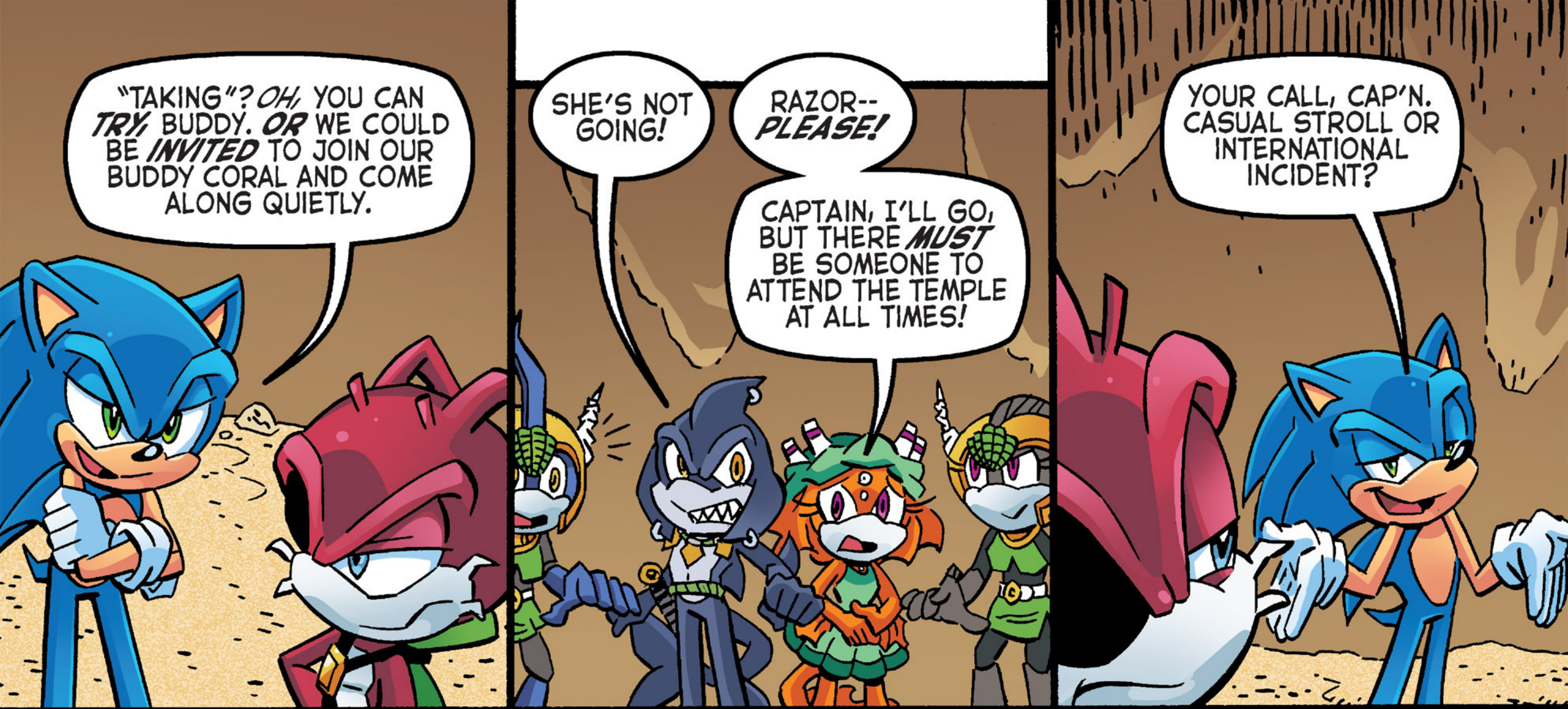
THE EVOLUTION CEREMONY TAKES *MINUTES*. YOU'RE TELLING ME...?

S-SHE'S ANCIENT. MAYBE IT'S... JUST TAKING LONGER THIS TIME...?



SPARE ME YOUR EXCUSES. THAT CHAO IS CENTRAL TO OUR WAY OF LIFE!

CITY GUARD! WE'RE BRINGING THIS CHARLATAN AND THE TRESPASSERS BEFORE THE KING AND QUEEN!



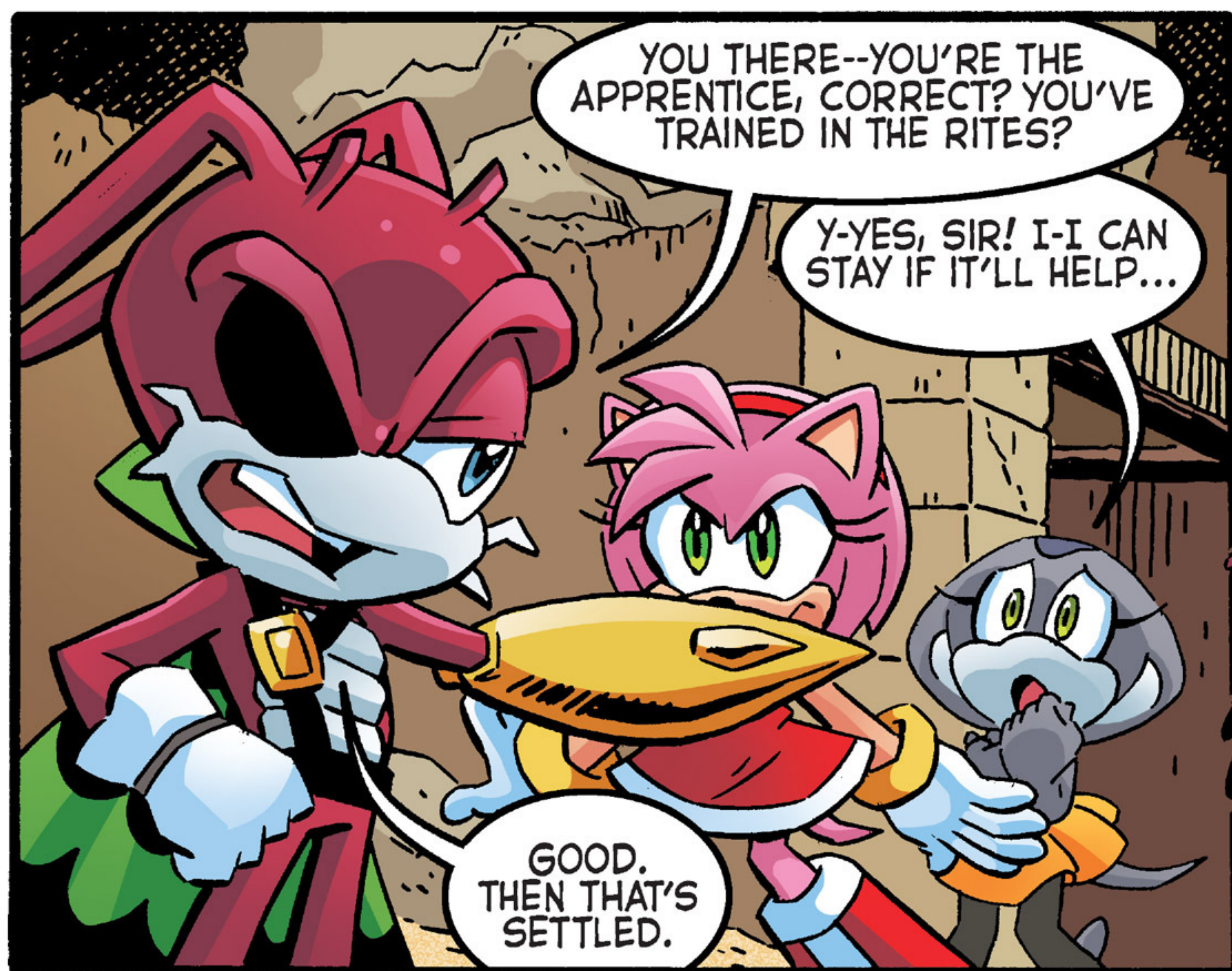
"TAKING"? OH, YOU CAN *TRY* BUDDY. *OR* WE COULD BE *INVITED* TO JOIN OUR BUDDY CORAL AND COME ALONG QUIETLY.

SHE'S NOT GOING!

RAZOR--
PLEASE!

CAPTAIN, I'LL GO, BUT THERE *MUST* BE SOMEONE TO ATTEND THE TEMPLE AT ALL TIMES!

YOUR CALL, CAP'N. CASUAL STROLL OR INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT?



YOU THERE--YOU'RE THE APPRENTICE, CORRECT? YOU'VE TRAINED IN THE RITES?

Y-YES, SIR! I-I CAN STAY IF IT'LL HELP...

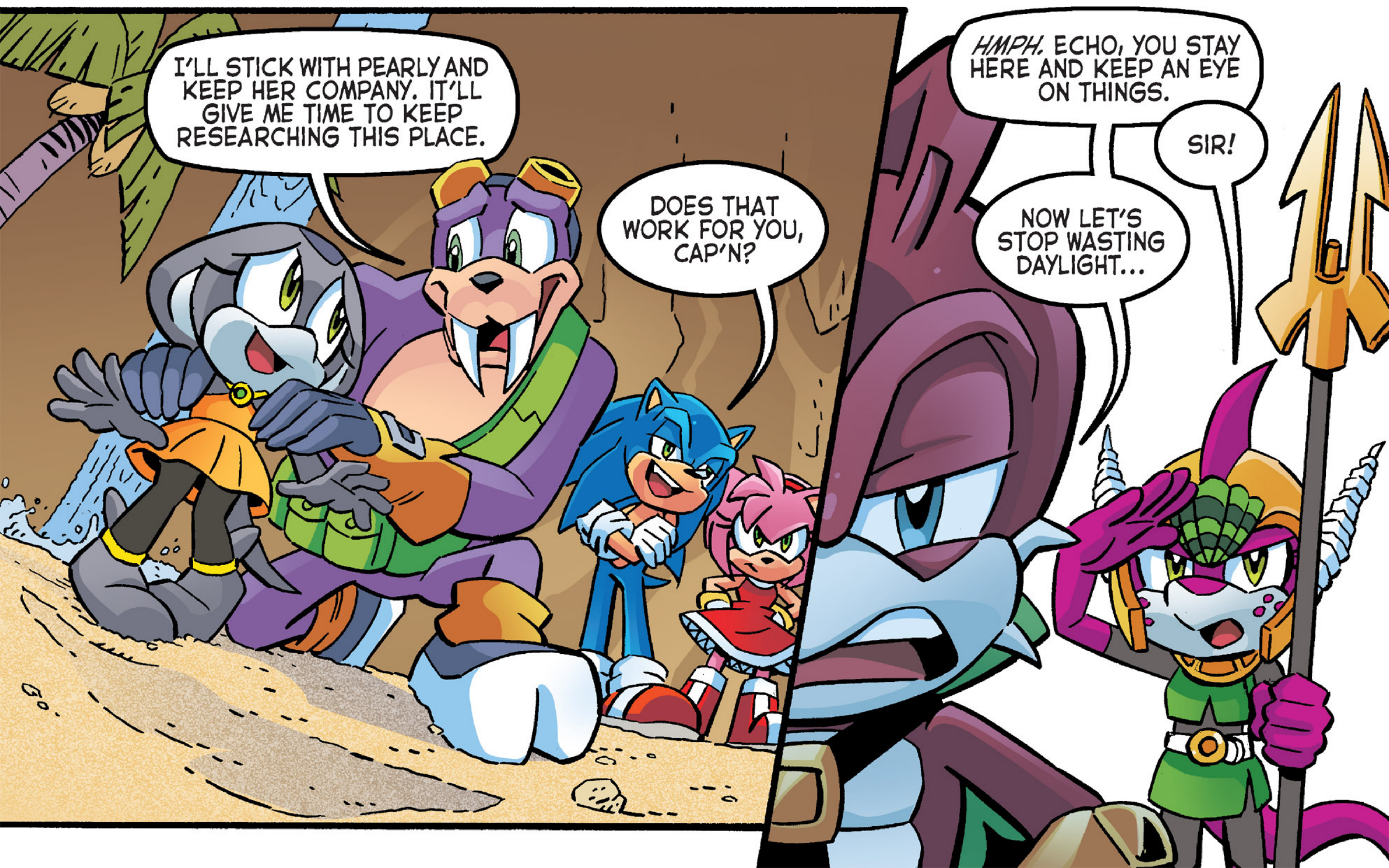
GOOD. THEN THAT'S SETTLED.



YOU THREE WILL BE *ESCORTED* TO THE CITY. YOU CAN STATE YOUR BUSINESS BEFORE THEIR GRACES AND BEG FORGIVENESS FOR BREAKING PROTOCOL.

HEH, SURE.

WE CAN WORK WITH THAT.



I'LL STICK WITH PEARLY AND KEEP HER COMPANY. IT'LL GIVE ME TIME TO KEEP RESEARCHING THIS PLACE.

DOES THAT WORK FOR YOU, CAP'N?

HMPH. ECHO, YOU STAY HERE AND KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS.

SIR!

NOW LET'S STOP WASTING DAYLIGHT...

"...AND HEAD
FOR THE CITY."

MEROPIS--
UNDERWATER
CITY...

I WISH WE WERE
HERE UNDER
DIFFERENT CIRCUM-
STANCES--THIS
PLACE IS *AMAZING!*

AND JUST THINK--
THIS IS ONLY *ONE*
CITY IN THE WHOLE,
WIDE OCEAN!

I WONDER IF THE OTHER
UNDERWATER CITIES ARE
THIS GORGEOUS?

AIR CHARM
LETS YOU
BREATHE
UNDERWATER!

DUNNO.
PROBABLY
JUST AS
WET.
Y'KNOW...
BEING
UNDER ALL
THIS
WATER.

"IS IT JUST ME, OR
DOES IT SEEM LIKE
EVERYONE WE PASS
LOOKS KIND OF..."

"CRANKY? DISAPPROV-
ING? LESS-THAN-
PLEASANT?
I GUESS WE STAND
OUT A BIT, BUT
C'MON..."

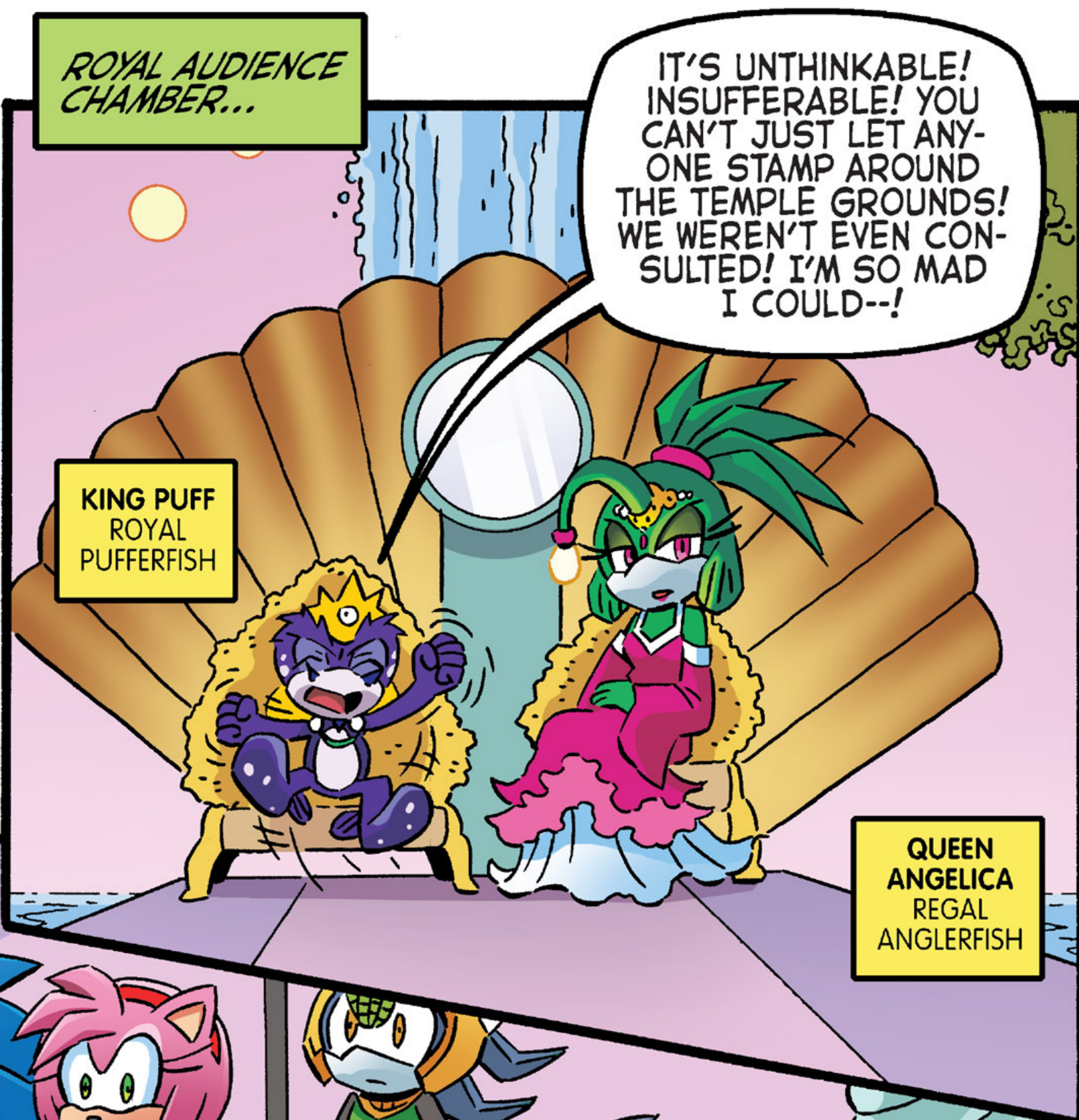
IT'S NOT YOU. EVER
SINCE THE EARTH-
QUAKES,* THE WATERS
HAVE GOTTEN MURKIER
AND THE CITIZENS...
NASTIER.

I WONDER...WELL,
FIRST, WE'LL TALK TO
THE ROYAL WHOEVERS
AND GET THIS ALL
STRAIGHTENED OUT!

*STH
#256.



UNACCEPTABLE!



ROYAL AUDIENCE CHAMBER...

KING PUFF
ROYAL
PUFFERFISH

QUEEN
ANGELICA
REGAL
ANGLERFISH

IT'S UNTHINKABLE!
INSUFFERABLE! YOU
CAN'T JUST LET ANY-
ONE STAMP AROUND
THE TEMPLE GROUNDS!
WE WEREN'T EVEN CON-
SULTED! I'M SO MAD
I COULD--!



WELL...HE SEEMS
REASONABLE...

POOMP!

Y-YOUR GRACES,
I-I-I-IF I MAY
EXPLAIN...



EXPLAIN? WHAT IS THERE
TO EXPLAIN? DUE TO YOUR
FAILURES, MEROPIS HAS
ENDURED DARKENING
WATERS AND EARTHQUAKES--
AND MONSTERS KEEP US
TRAPPED WITHIN OUR HOMES
ALL NIGHT! AND NOW--!



CAN I STOP YOU
RIGHT THERE,
QUEENIE?

HI THERE--SONIC THE
HEDGEHOG, GREATEST
HERO OF THE WORLD AND
DR. EGGMAN'S NUMBER
ONE PAIN IN THE BUTT.
HOW'S IT GOIN'?

SO...WHAT'S THIS
ABOUT CORAL NOT
DOING HER JOB?
'CAUSE TO ME, SHE
SEEMS PRETTY
DEVOUT.

AH...SO YOU ARE THE FAMOUS SONIC? GUARDS, STAND DOWN.

KNOW THIS--IN ADDITION TO ALLOWING UNAUTHORIZED FOREIGNERS INTO OUR MOST SACRED GROUNDS, BECAUSE OF CORAL'S FAILINGS...

WHICH WE COULD MANAGE. BUT THEN THE SHIELD, SUSTAINED BY THE MAGIC OF HER RITES, BEGAN TO WEAKEN, EXPOSING US TO THE NOXIOUS WATERS...

...WE HAVE ENOUGH CONCERNS, WHAT WITH AHKLUT AND HIS EGG ARMY MENACING THE GREAT BLUE REALM!

I-I KNOW THE FATES HAVE NOT BEEN KIND TO US, AND I HAVE BEEN ...STRAINED... LATELY....

THINGS STARTED GOING BAD A FEW MONTHS AGO. THE WATER GOT **REALLY** POLLUTED. THE CITY SHIELD BARELY KEPT IT OUT.

...AND THEN THERE WERE EARTHQUAKES. THAT'S WHEN THE NIGHT-MONSTERS STARTED COMING OUT OF THE **RIFT**. I THINK THE CITY GUARD IS SCARED OF THEM 'CAUSE...

AND NOW AQUARIUS HASN'T BEEN REBORN. SHE'S BEEN REINCARNATED HERE FOR GENERATIONS--EVER SINCE SHE TAUGHT THE FIRST SETTLERS HOW TO DO THE RITES!

IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO TAKE THIS LONG. I'M WORRIED THAT THEY'LL BLAME CORAL FOR THIS, TOO...

BUT MY COMMITMENT TO MY DUTIES, MY CITY, AND MY PEOPLE HASN'T WAVERED. I SWEAR IT!



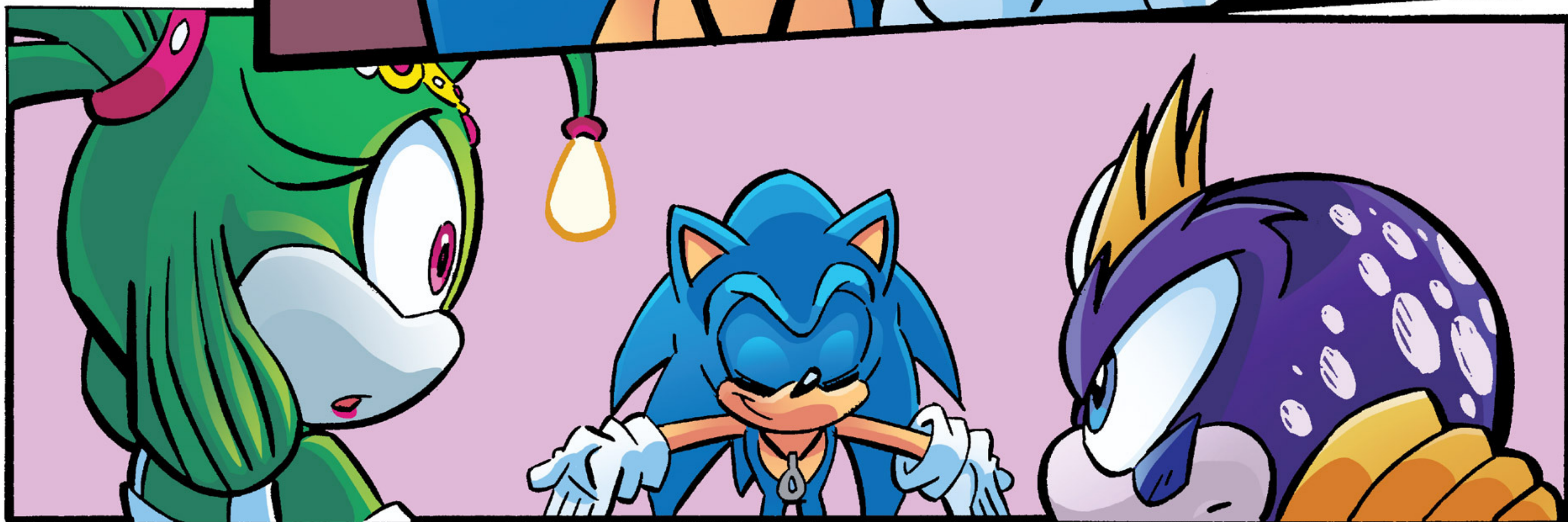
OKAY, BACK UP A STEP. NO ONE'S SAYING THIS BAD STUFF DIDN'T HAPPEN, BUT I CAN EXPLAIN. IT'S *NOT* CORAL'S FAULT.

DOCTOR EGGMAN IS TO BLAME. SEE, HE TRIED TO USE THE CHAOS EMERALDS TO CHANGE REALITY.

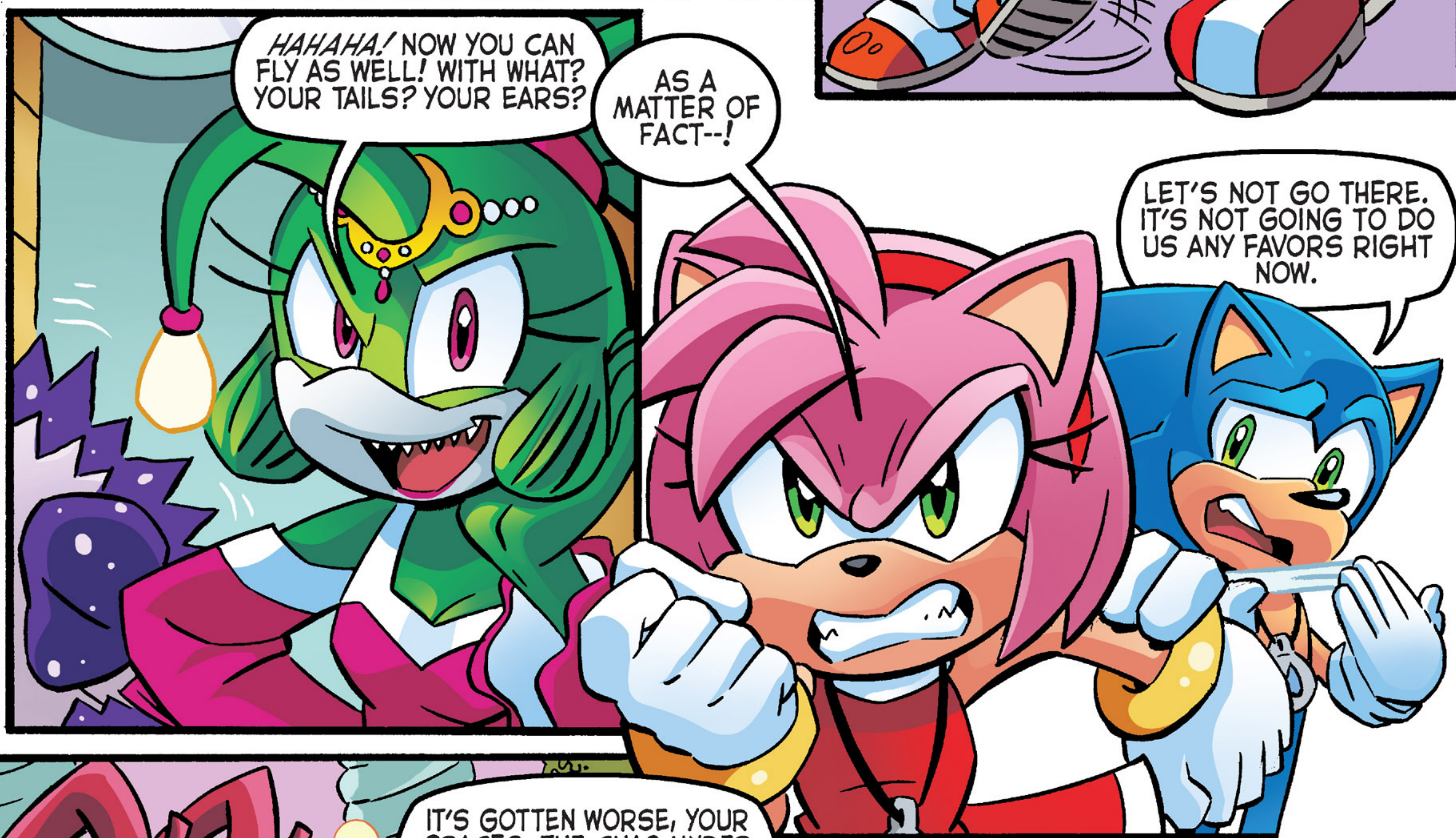
I STOPPED HIM, BUT BEFORE I COULD FIX THINGS, HE MADE IT ALL WORSE.*

ALL THE ENERGY WOUND UP SHATTERING THE PLANET AND LETTING LOOSE SOME KIND OF DARK POWER FROM ITS CORE. *THAT'S* WHERE ALL YOUR EARTHQUAKES AND MONSTERS ARE COMING FROM. IT'S *NOT* JUST HERE.* * THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE--WE'RE LOOKING FOR A WAY TO FIX THINGS!

* *STH#251.*
* * *STH#256.*



THAT'S THE STUPIDEST THING I'VE EVER HEARD!



YOUR GRACES--*PLEASE*, LISTEN!
THE SPIRIT CAME TO ME AND *TOLD*
ME THESE LAND-WALKERS WOULD
COME AND HELP US!

YOU MUST GIVE ME MORE TIME
TO SET THINGS RIGHT! TO ENSURE
THINGS DO NOT GET WORSE!

ENOUGH!

YOU HAVE DONE
ENOUGH WITHOUT
BRINGING THE
WRATH OF THE
SPIRITS WITH YOUR
DESPERATE LIES!

PRIESTESS CORAL--FOR YOUR
FAILURES TO PERFORM YOUR
DUTIES AND THUS ENDANGER-
ING MEROPIS, YOU ARE HEREBY
STRIPPED OF YOUR TITLE
AND PRIVILEGES!

GATHER WHATEVER BELONGINGS
YOU HAVE. THIS WILL BE YOUR
LAST NIGHT TAKING UP SPACE IN
THE EUSEBES TEMPLE.

BUT
YOU *NEED*
HER!

WE *NEED* A *COMPETENT*
PRIESTESS. A REPLACEMENT
PRIESTESS MUST BE FOUND
IMMEDIATELY--IF THERE ARE
ANY FORMER CANDIDATES
LEFT WHO AREN'T SHAMED
BY THE TITLE.

IF ONLY OUR
DARLING
PRINCESS
WASN'T ABROAD.
SHE STUDIED
THE RITES...
AND YET *YOU*
WERE CHOSEN
INSTEAD...

AS FOR OUR...VISITORS.
NIGHT WILL BE UPON US
BEFORE YOU CAN REACH
SHORE. YOU MAY STAY THE
NIGHT IN THE TEMPLE.

IF YOU HAVEN'T
FOUND WHAT YOU SEEK
BY MORNING, THAT'S
SIMPLY YOUR PROBLEM,
NOT OURS.

THANKS.
YOU'RE *SO*
GRACIOUS.

SOON--AT THE EUSEBES TEMPLE
GROUND & CHAO GARDEN...

--AND THEN THEY TOOK
AWAY HER TITLE! POOR
CORAL COULD BARELY
WALK! I MEAN--SWIM!
WHATEVER!

YIKES. I GUESS
THAT'S IT FOR OUR
RESEARCH HERE,
THEN.

IT'S SO UNFAIR!
I JUST WANNA--
RRGH!

PIKO!

IT TICKS ME OFF,
TOO, AND WHILE I LOVE
A GOOD SCUFFLE, WE
CAN'T TAKE ON THE
ENTIRE CITY.

RIGHT. SO WE'VE
GOT TO THINK OF
SOMETHING. FIND
A WAY TO CON-
VINCE THEM--

NO, FIRST WE HAVE TO KEEP
WORKING ON HOW TO SAVE
THE *WHOLE WORLD*.

UH, SORRY? I
COULDN'T HEAR YOU
OVER YOUR TOTAL
LACK OF SYMPATHY.

DON'T GIVE ME THAT!
ARGUING WITH SOME
ROYAL JERKS DOESN'T
HELP CORAL, LET ALONE
EVERYONE ELSE! IT
STINKS, BUT SAVING
THE WORLD NEEDS TO
COME FIRST.

IF WE'RE NOT OUT
TO HELP *EVERY-
ONE*, THEN WHO
ARE WE FIXING THE
WORLD FOR, ROTE?!
SHOULD WE JUST
SKIP OVER THE
PEOPLE IN TROUBLE
WHILE YOU FOCUS
ON THE BIG
PICTURE?

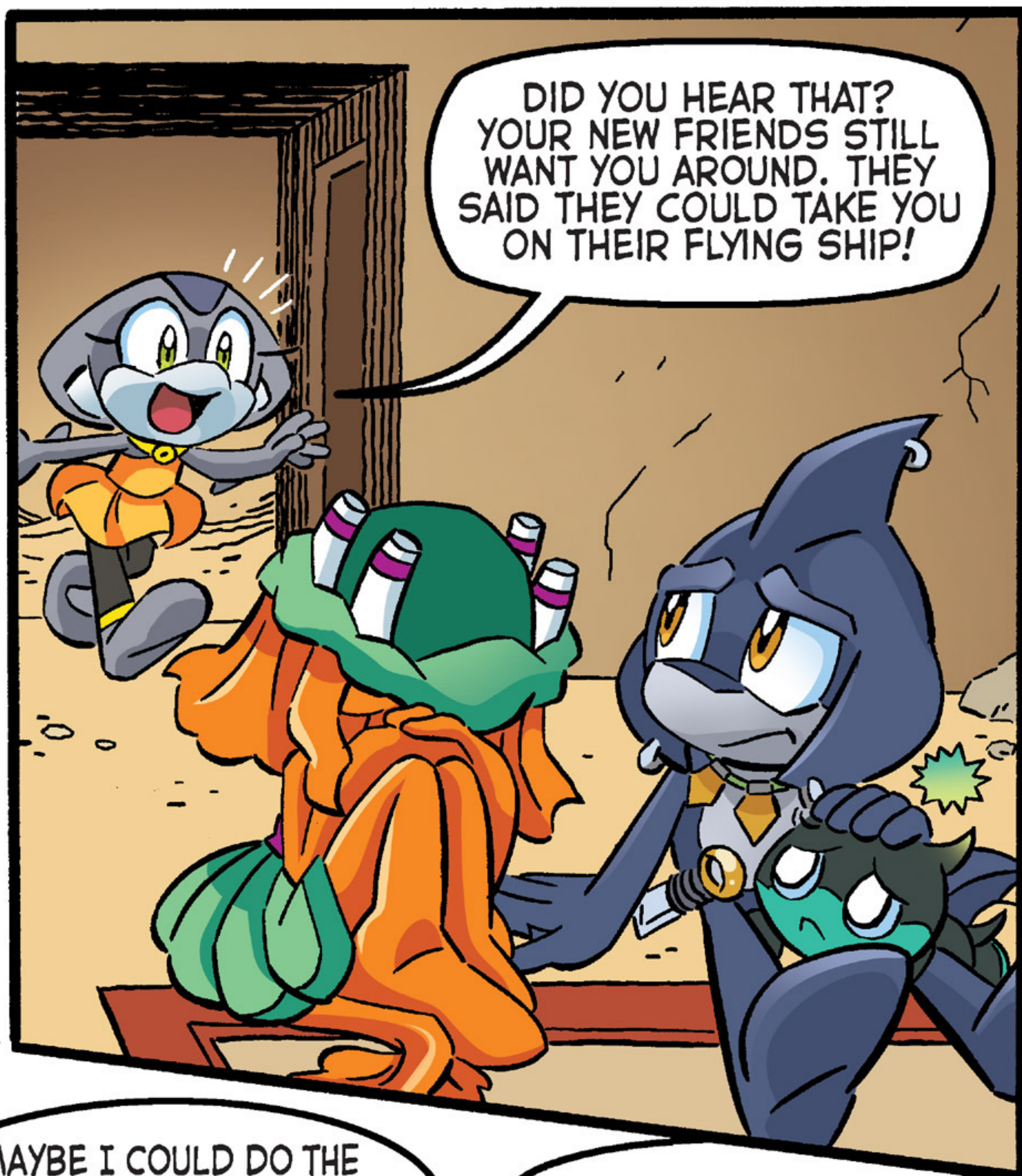
WHOA! CALM DOWN!

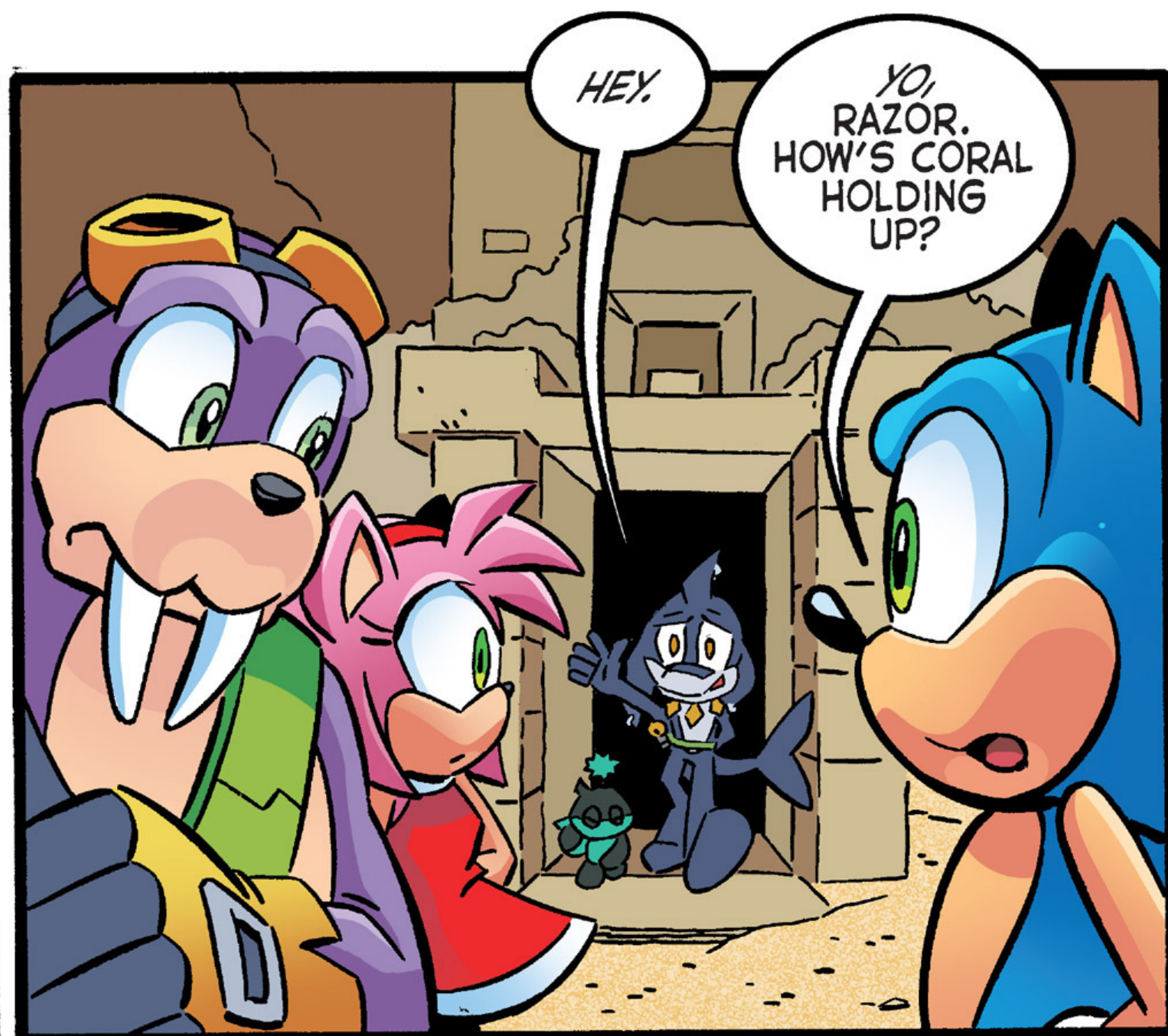
⇒SNORT⇒
SORRY.

YEAH,
YOU
ARE.

SONIC!

...FINE,
ME, TOO.





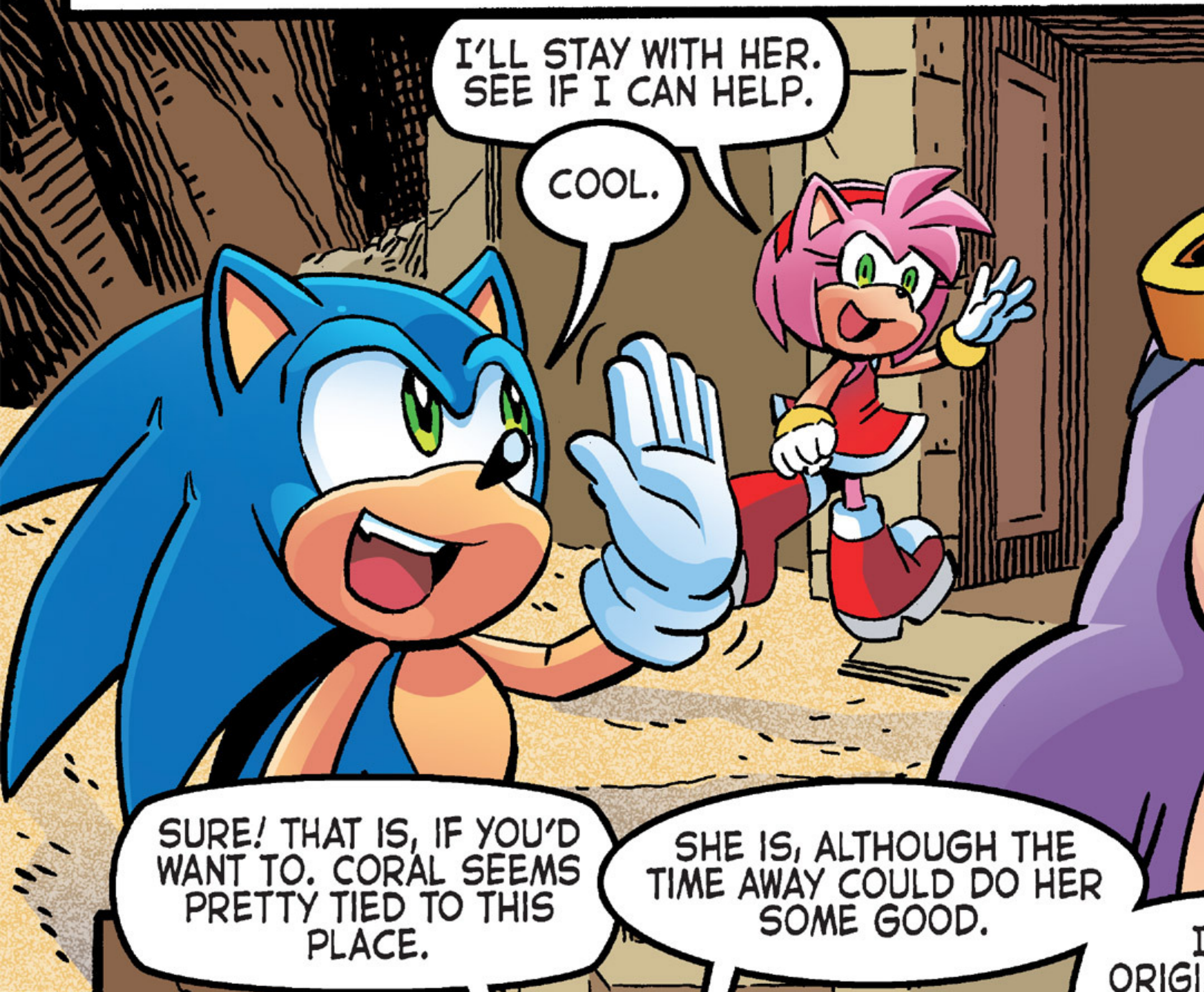
HEY.

YO,
RAZOR.
HOW'S CORAL
HOLDING
UP?



SHE'S *REALLY* SHAKEN--AND
BECAUSE WE WASTED ALL DAY
GETTING YELLED AT IN THE CITY,
SHE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH TIME
TO DO THE RITES.

WELL. IT'S REAL
CLASSY OF HER
TO DO IT ANYWAY.



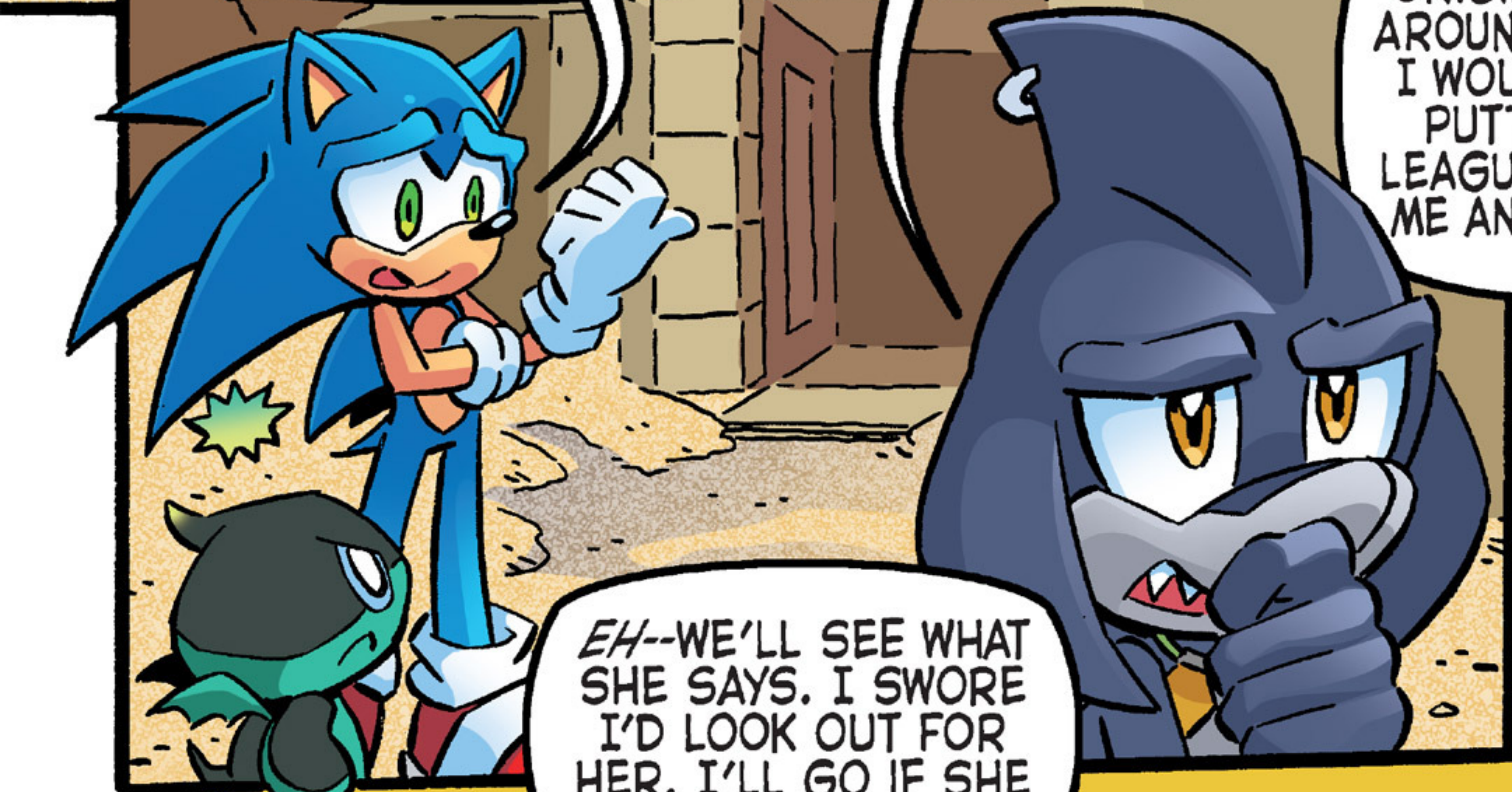
I'LL STAY WITH HER.
SEE IF I CAN HELP.

COOL.



LISTEN--I KNOW WE'VE ALL JUST MET,
BUT YOU'RE ALL WELCOME TO COME TO
THE SKY PATROL WITH US. Y'KNOW--GIVE
THINGS TIME TO COOL DOWN.

REALLY?
ME AND PEARLY,
TOO?



SURE! THAT IS, IF YOU'D
WANT TO. CORAL SEEMS
PRETTY TIED TO THIS
PLACE.

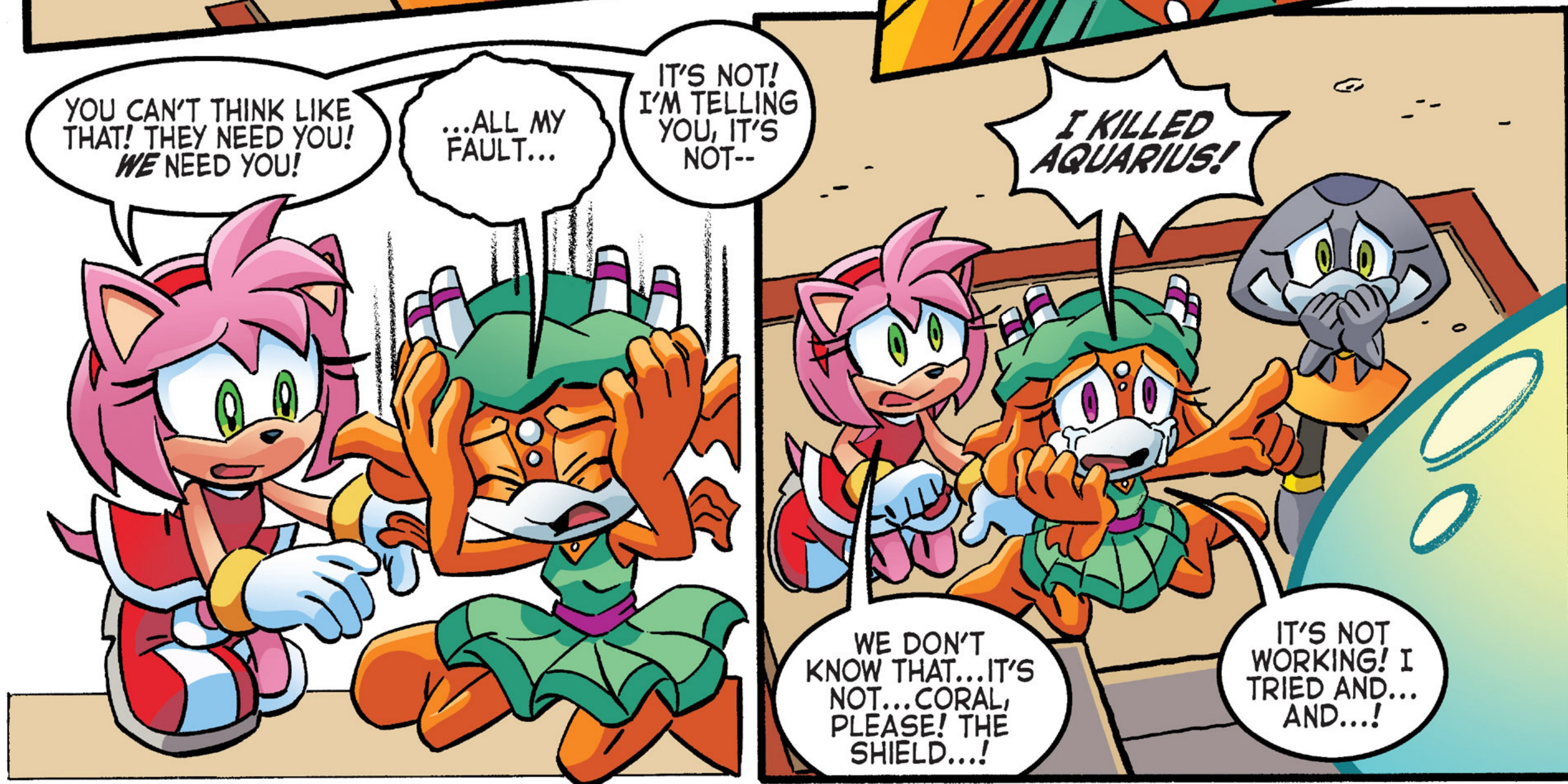
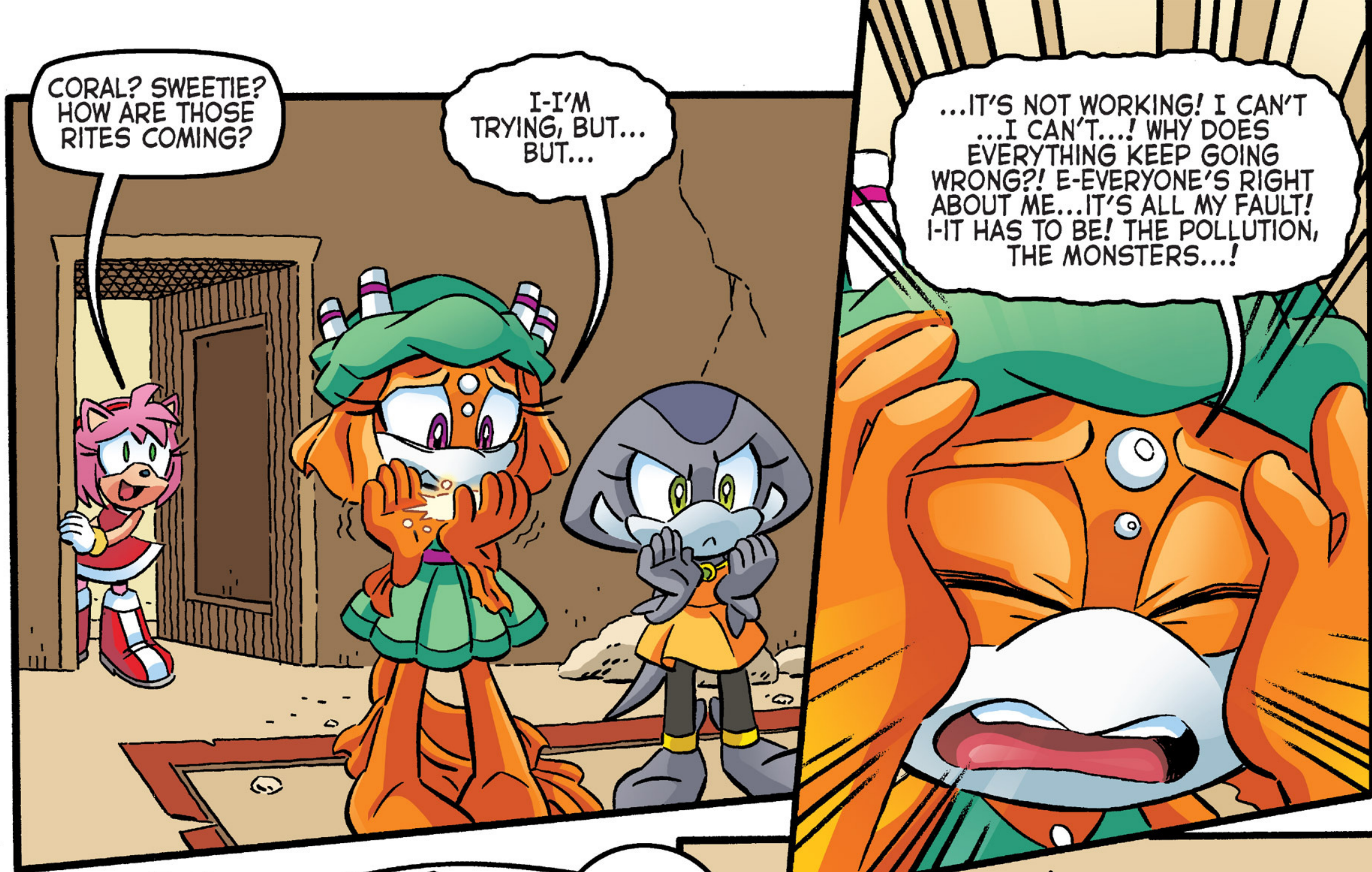
SHE IS, ALTHOUGH THE
TIME AWAY COULD DO HER
SOME GOOD.

I'M NOT
ORIGINALLY FROM
AROUND HERE, AND
I WOULDN'T MIND
PUTTING SOME
LEAGUES BETWEEN
ME AND MEROPIS.



EH--WE'LL SEE WHAT
SHE SAYS. I SWORE
I'D LOOK OUT FOR
HER. I'LL GO IF SHE
GOES.







AHHHH!

HELP!
HELP!

GUARDS!

CAPTAIN!
THE SHIELD--!

THAT
DISGRACEFUL
LITTLE...



SEAL THE
CASTLE!

MOVE THE CITIZENS
TO THE EMERGENCY
SHELTERS AND LOCK
THEM DOWN!

STICK
TOGETHER AND
LET THE BEASTS
COME TO YOU!



SHING!

MEROPIS
WILL NOT FALL
UNDER OUR
WATCH!



SONIC AND HIS FRIENDS—TRAPPED BY A
HORDE OF **MONSTERS!**
THE CITY OF MEROPIS—**OVERRUN!**
**AND IT'S ONLY GOING TO GET
DARKER BEFORE THE DAWN!**
UNTIL NEXT TIME, CHECK OUT SONIC UNIVERSE,
THE SONIC SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE, SONIC
SUPER DIGEST, AND THE GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY!

ADRENALINE



SONIC™

THE HEDGEHOG

WAVES OF CHANGE

ADVENTURE

MEGA™

MAN

DAWN OF X



AWESOME



SONIC™

UNIVERSE

**THE GREAT
CHAOS CAPER**

**ALWAYS
FROM**



↖
SCAN THIS CODE
TO GO TO THE
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**ENTER AN ALL-NEW
WORLD OF ACTION!**

CRYSTAL CAVE...

WHOA...

THIS...IS
INCREDIBLE.

The **LIGHT** in The **DARK**

PART TWO

Script: ALEAH BAKER
Pencils: EVAN STANLEY
Inks: TERRY AUSTIN
Colors: GABRIEL CASSATA
Letters: JOHN WORKMAN

...IT'S LIKE
THE INSIDE
OF A GIANT
GEODE!

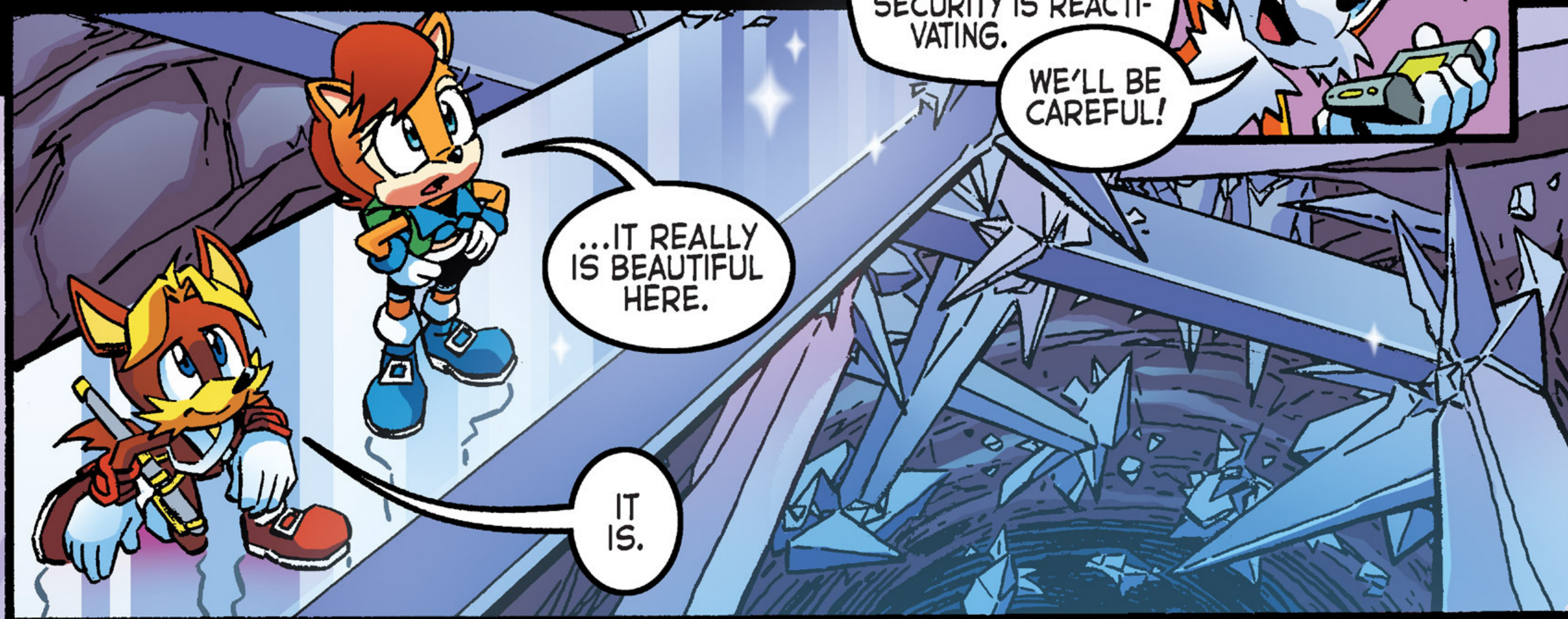
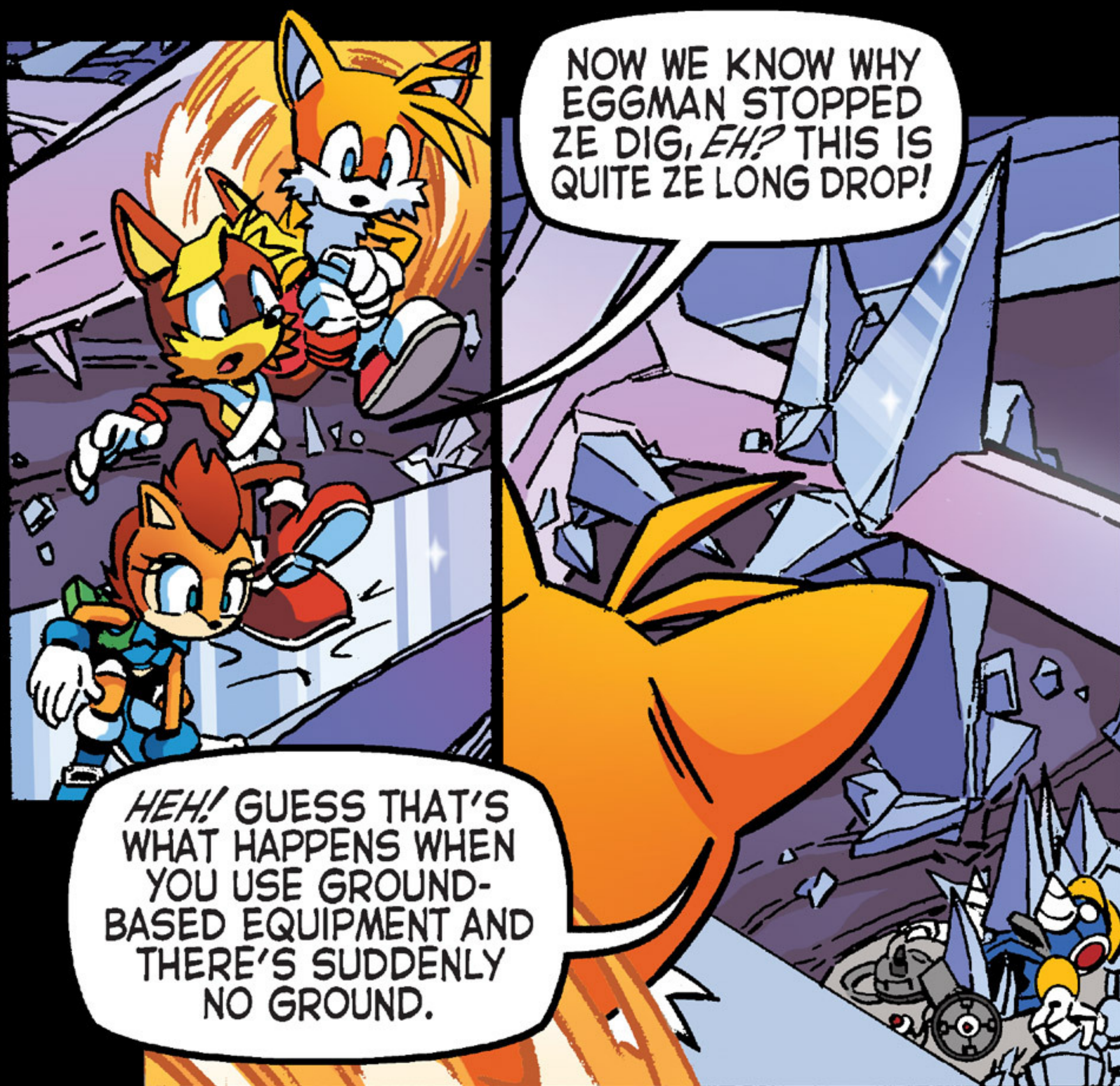
AND WE HAVE
LIMITED TIME TO
FIND ZE CHAOS
EMERALD IN
ALL THIS...

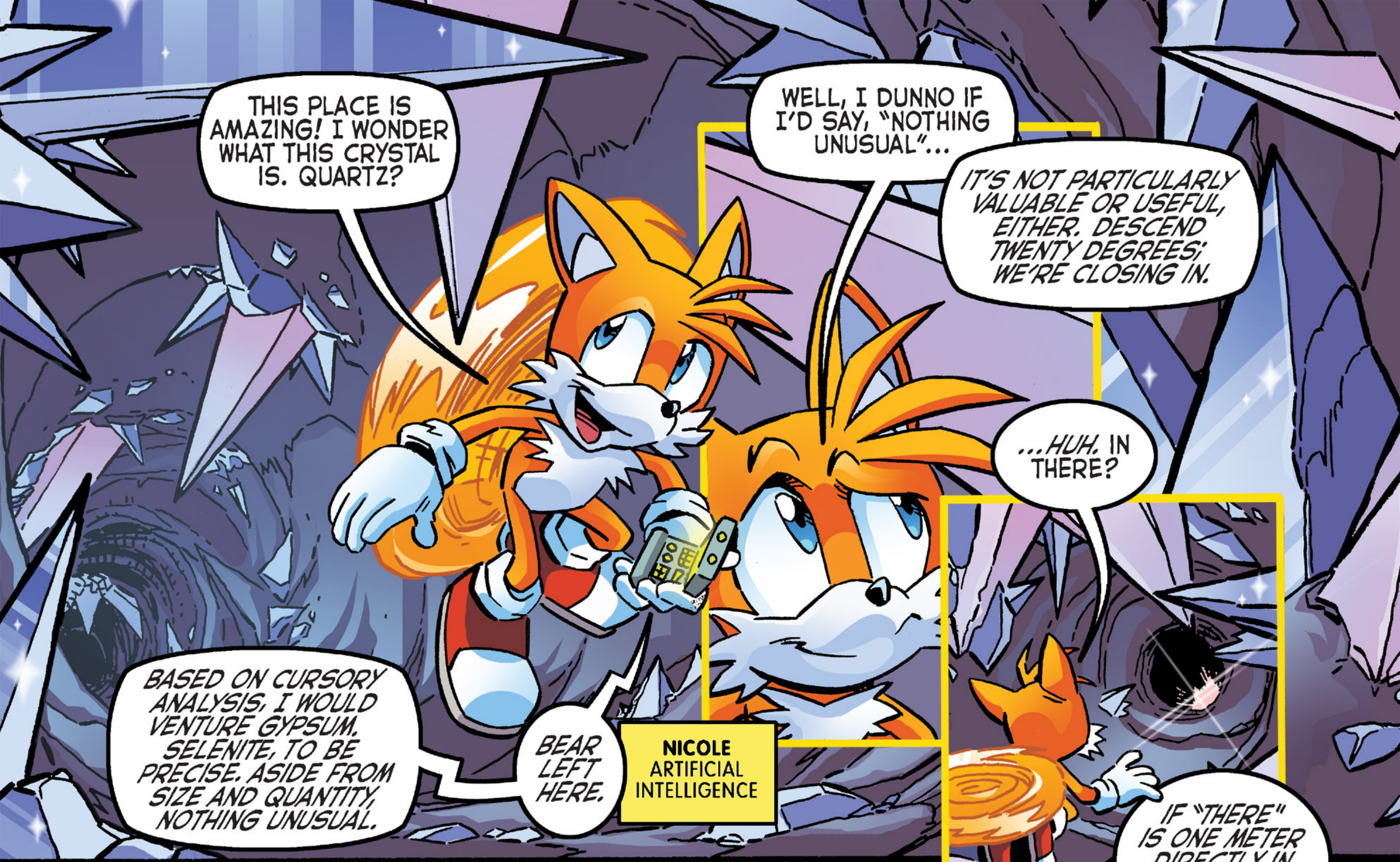
THEN LET'S
NOT WASTE THAT
TIME!

TAILS
YOUNG
GENIUS

ANTOINE
SWORDSMAN

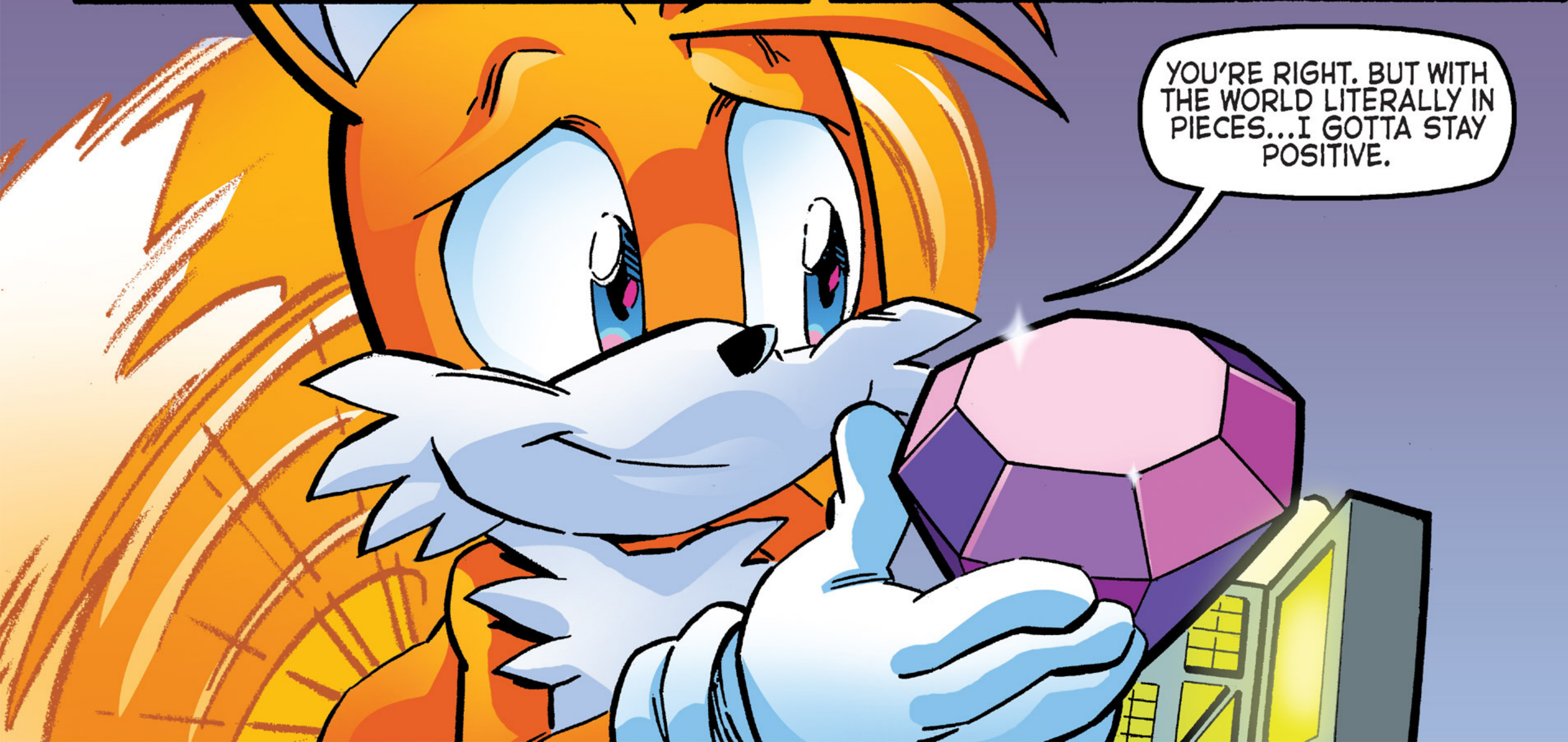
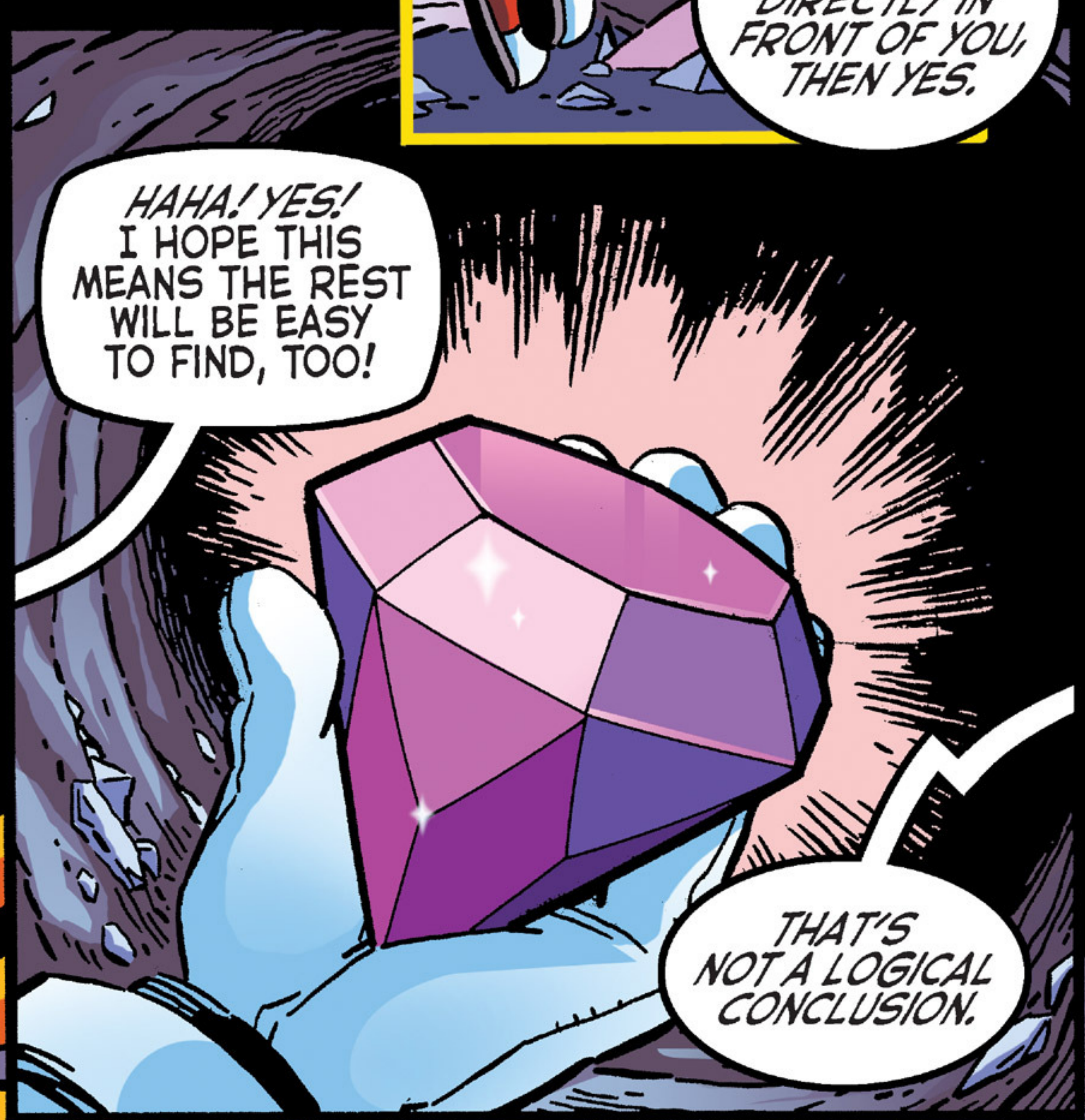
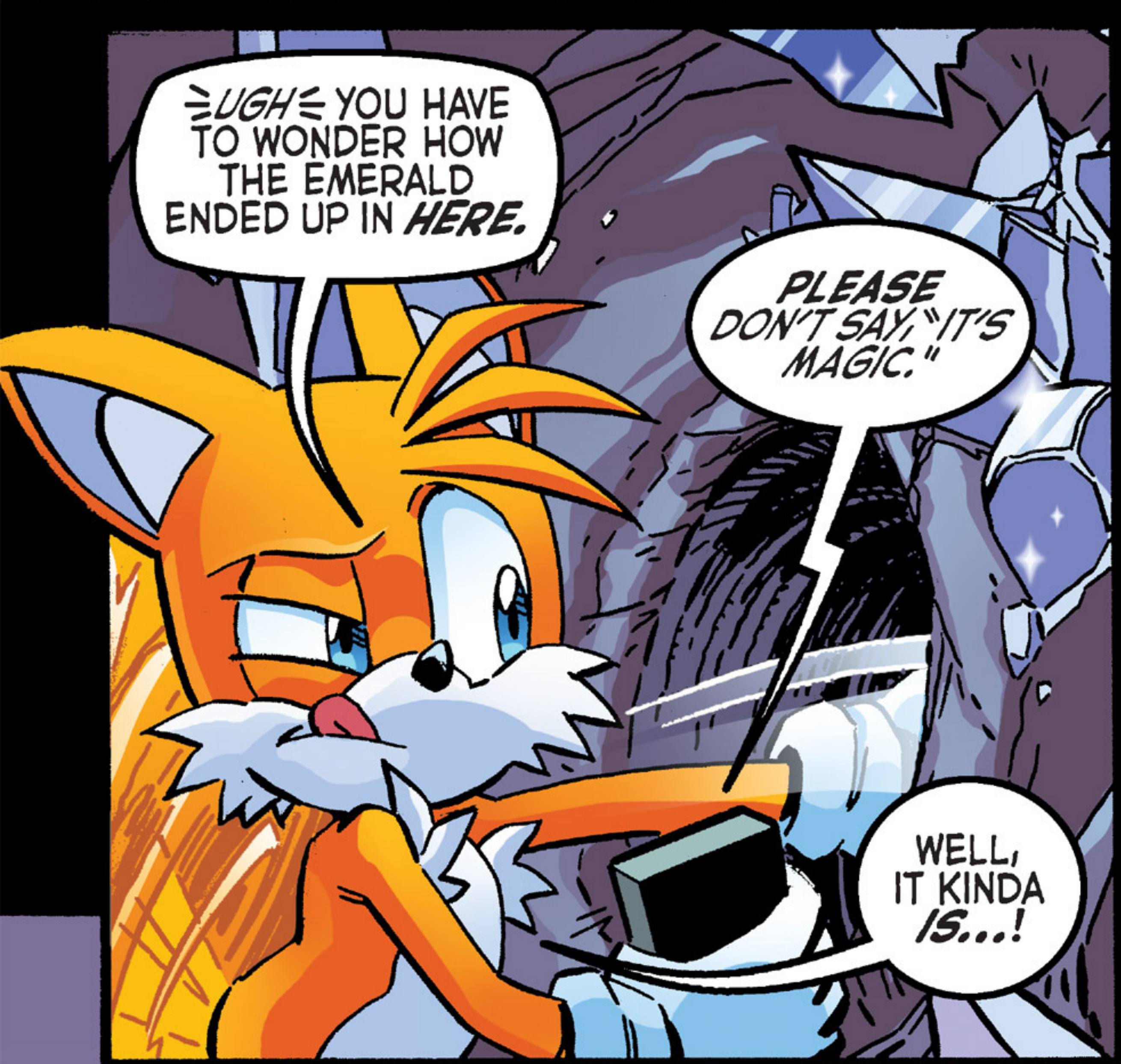
SALLY
FIELD
LEADER





NICOLE
ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE

IF "THERE"
IS ONE METER
DIRECTLY IN
FRONT OF YOU,
THEN YES.





TA-DA!

GREAT WORK, TAILS!

AND WITH THAT, WE HAVE **JUST ENOUGH** TIME TO ESCAPE UNDETECTED. DOCTOR EGGMAN WILL NEVER KNOW WE WERE HERE.



ABOUT THAT... ONCE WE LEAVE, EGGMAN WILL KEEP LOOKING FOR THE EMERALD HERE.

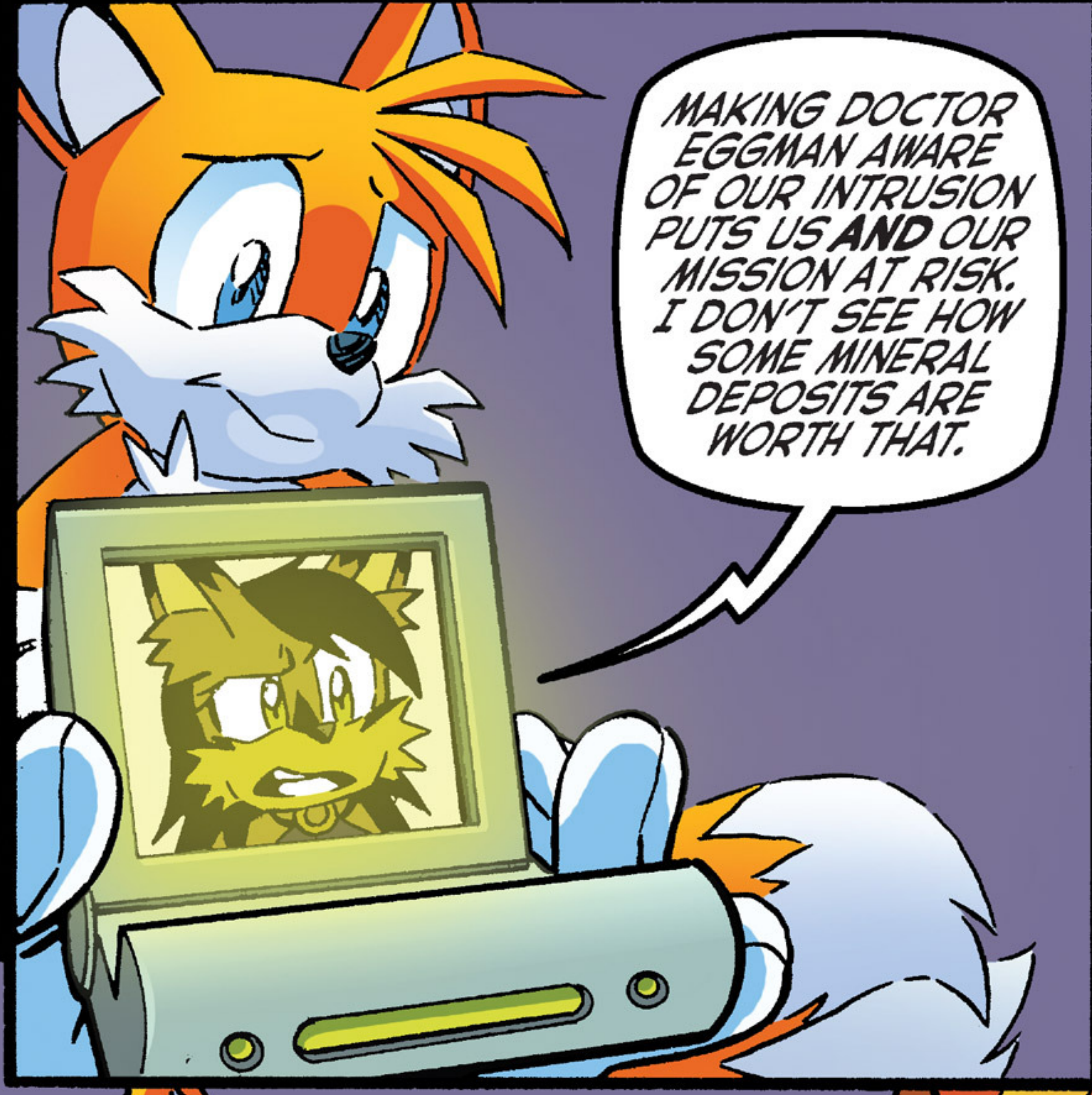
WHEN HIS NEW EQUIPMENT ARRIVES, HE'LL TEAR THIS PLACE APART.

YES, KEEPING HIM OCCUPIED. ALL TO OUR ADVANTAGE. WAS THAT NOT OUR PLAN?



YES, AND THAT WAS SHORT-SIGHTED OF ME. THIS CAVERN IS A NATURAL WONDER. IT'S A MIRACLE THAT IT SURVIVED THE QUAKES.

WE **CAN'T** BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS DESTRUCTION.



MAKING DOCTOR EGGMAN AWARE OF OUR INTRUSION PUTS US **AND** OUR MISSION AT RISK. I DON'T SEE HOW SOME MINERAL DEPOSITS ARE WORTH THAT.



...MAYBE THIS WILL HELP YOU SEE.

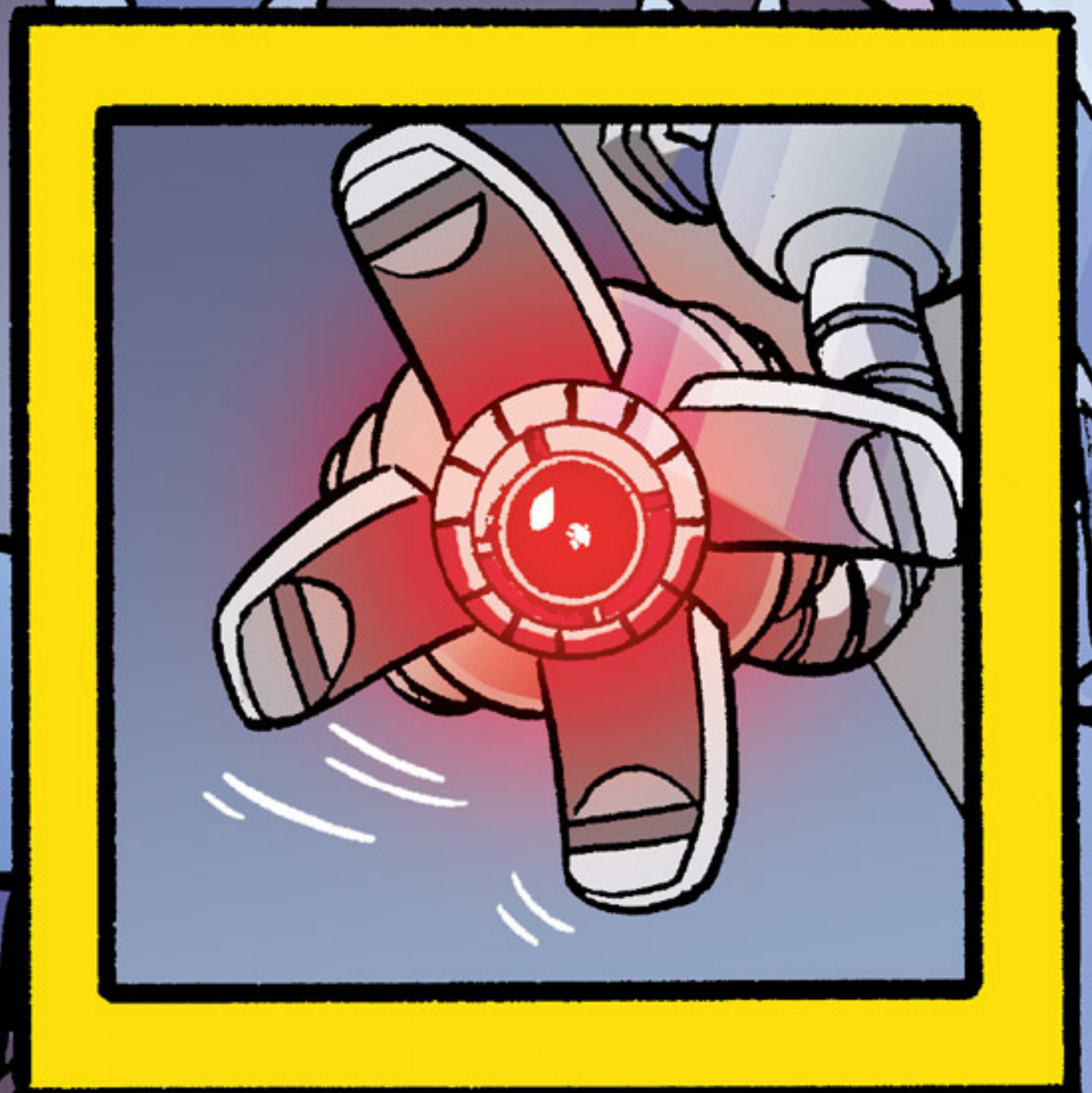


SALLY, WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR--





...FOR...



NICOLE, I...

...NO, YOU'RE RIGHT, SALLY. IT WOULD BE A... SHAME... TO LET THIS PLACE FALL TO RUIN.



SO...WHAT NOW? THE SECURITY SYSTEMS ARE GONNA BE COMING BACK ONLINE...

NOW...



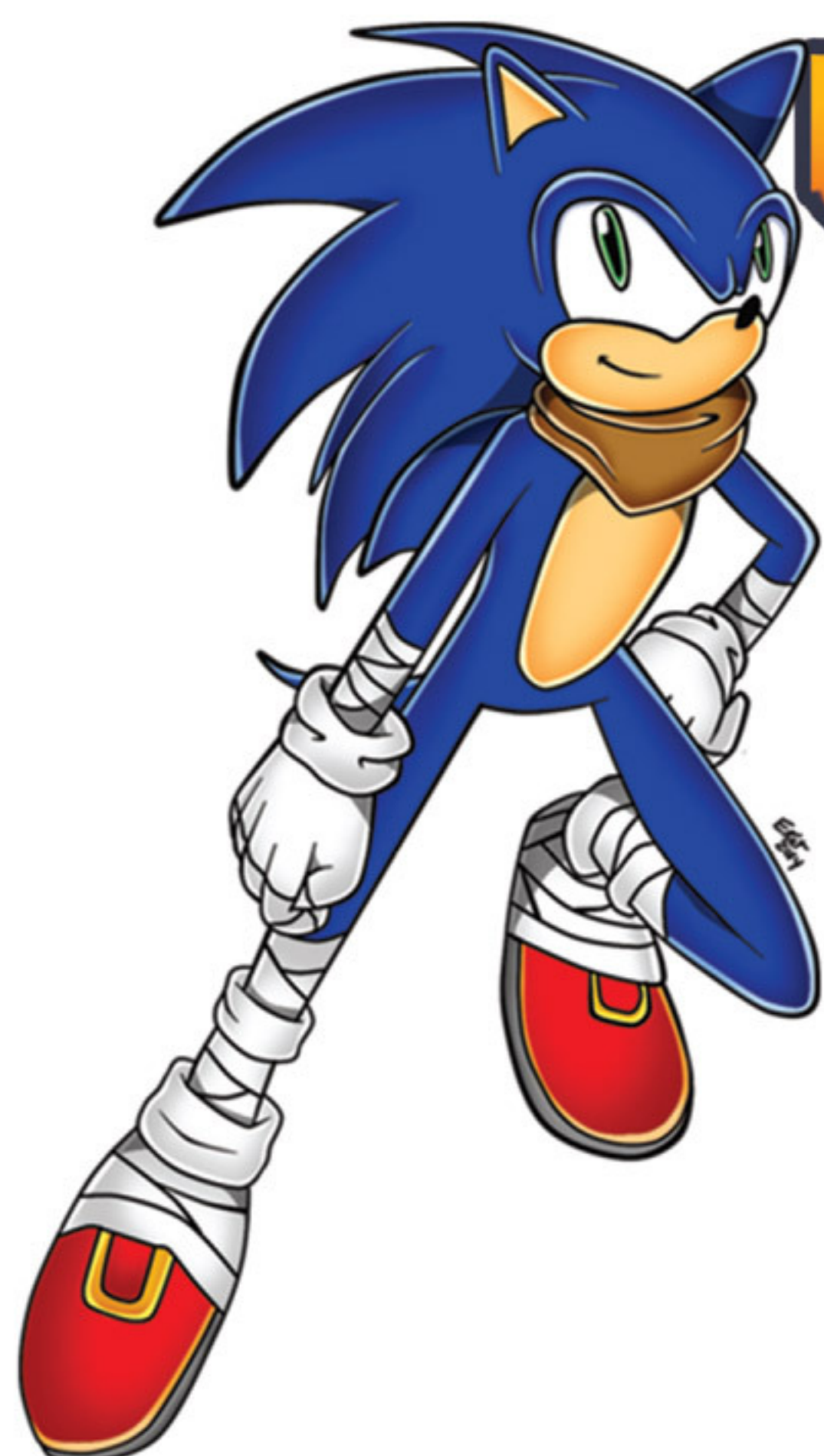
WE MAKE ABSOLUTELY SURE EGGMAN KNOWS WE TOOK THIS EMERALD RIGHT FROM UNDER HIS NOSE.

TIME'S UP!
DEEP UNDERGROUND--AND THE ONLY WAY OUT IS THROUGH AN ARMY OF BADNIKS!
WILL THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS' CHOICE COST THEM THE CHAOS EMERALD... OR THEIR LIVES?
FIND OUT NEXT MONTH!



SONIC-GRAMS

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Jonathan R.
from New York



Barry D. sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com

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OFF PANEL

SCRIPT: ALEAH BAKER PENCILS: ADAM BRYCE THOMAS
INKS: RICK BRYANT COLORS: STEVEN LISEFSKI

WHAT IF THE TEAMS WERE SWITCHED?!



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Dear 'Sonic Grams,'

Awesome job wrapping things up in "The Chase"! I liked getting to see the train Eggman made that appeared in Sonic Heroes along with references and a few other cameos.

Thanks! Sonic's world is so rich with all of these different elements spanning from the games and television shows! We want to try to incorporate them in the comic universe in the best way possible, and that train was just too cool to pass on!

One thing I was wondering is if we could please see more E-100 series robots that were built after the original ones from Sonic Adventure, the cool E-106 Eta was awesome. He reminded me of an odd cross between Zero, Gamma and Omega.

Eta is awesome. He just might show up again in the future and I think you'll be pleasantly surprised to see what other robots pop up in upcoming stories! Stay tuned!

Also should we expect to see some more alien action in the future? I was also curious as to who Knuckles in Sonic Universe meant by "Her" as he saw the alien shuttle crash in Rail Canyon.

***SPOILER ALERT* At the end of "Shadow Fall" in Sonic Universe, Eclipse was able to escape the new Black Comet, but crashed onto Sonic's world! I think the answers you seek will be revealed soon in upcoming issues of Sonic Universe!**

That's all for now from a Big Sonic Fan.

Patrick L sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks for the letter, Patrick!

Dear 'Sonic Grams,'
Hi!

Oh, hello!

I love Sonic comics! Sonic's sooooo cool! I even got Sonic as my nickname! Way past cool, right? Anyway, love your comics. Keep it up!

Sonic Anon. sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks for writing in, Sonic Anon! That's cool to have a nickname after the fastest thing alive! Think you could keep up with the Blue Blur?!

See y'all next month for "Waves of Change," part three of four!

COLLECTOR COVER SPOTLIGHT

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #261



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